

# **International Negotiations on Climate Change from the perspective of Burden and Benefit Sharing Principles : Focused on Concepts of Equity and Distributive Justice**

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## **1. Introduction**

There are obvious inequalities among countries on emission responsibilities and vulnerabilities to adverse effects of climate change. So we should consider distributive issue in international negotiations. In this thesis, I systematized distributive principles on climate change, and then, I analyze negotiations on climate change and the Protocol on such principles

## **2. Approaches to Norm in International Relations**

Among three main approaches, this study applies “external approach” that deals with what societies including rules ought to be.

## **3. “Distributive Justice”, “Compensatory Justice”, and “Equity”**

While “distributive justice” governs burden and benefits sharing among community members, “compensatory justice” coordinates interests of people. Climate change is “common concern of humankind”, so the former is useful. And “Equity” modifies to apply general norms to individual cases.

## **4. “Equity” in Global Environmental Politics**

Treatments of “equity” were gradually expanded from judicial conception to meaning of “distributive justice. Especially from 1990’s, this word has been used in the North-South divide issue in global environmental policies. So we can understand that the term of “equity” in climate change issue implies this expanded meaning.

## **5. Analysis of International Negotiations on Climate Change from the Perspective of Burden and Benefit Sharing Principles**

### **(1)Distributive Principle on Climate Change**

To promote international responses to climate change, significant principles are “basic responsibilities of all

countries”, “difference principles”, “polluter – pays - principle” and “ability-to-pay principles”.

### **(2)The UNFCCC**

Principles on the Convention including “common but differentiated responsibilities” are guidelines,, and they don’t provide specified commitments on the Parties. But as framework convention, it secures basic responsibilities through requiring developing Parties to implement procedural commitments.

### **(3)Negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol**

The analysis on burden sharing indicates that there were many proposals based on historical emission responsibilities, emissions per capita, and few based on “ability-to-pay.” And that on benefit sharing indicates that there were many ones based on egalitarian principle, grand-fathering on emissions in 1990, and few based on “difference principle.” Both shows there are no proposals including all of four principles, and many ones are based on emission per capita.

### **(4)The Kyoto Protocol**

The Protocol seems to reflect PPP and “ability-to-pay principle”, taking notice on emission reduction commitments on developed Parties. Some studies indicate the influence of grand-fathering approach, but differentiation in EU reflected other distributive principles. And absences of additional transfer for adaptation show indifferences on this issue.

## **6. Conclusion**

From the perspective of distributive principle, the Kyoto Protocol is incomplete in emission reduction commitments and transfer, but it strengthened basic responsibilities. It’s important to study relationships between international and domestic distributions, and factors promoting establishment of policy frameworks based on these principles.